SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Lower Level – Room 41, City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard **July 26th, 2012**

Present: Robert Ferguson, Renee Hutter, Michael Justin, Richard Laffin, David Riehle, Steve

Trimble, Diane Trout-Oertel

Absent: Richard Dana (excused), Matt Hill (excused) John Manning (unexcused), Matt

Mazanec (excused), David Wagner (excused) **Staff Present:** Christine Boulware, Renee Cohn

Public Hearing

I. Call to order: 5:03

- II. Approval of the Agenda: Commissioner Ferguson motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Justin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Conflicts of Interest There were none stated.
- IV. Chair's Announcements There were none stated.

V. Staff Announcements

A. Staff Christine Boulware announced that there will be two presentations during the next business meeting. Hilary Holmes will present an Overview of the Lowertown Historic District. Don Ganje from the department of Parks and Recreation will present on the Great River Passage Plan.

VI. Permit Review/ Public Hearings

A. Raymond Central Corridor Station (just east of Raymond on University), University Raymond Commercial District, by Alicia Vap, Central Corridor Project Office, for consideration to revise the etched glass pattern for the LRT shelters. This project was conditionally approved by the HPC on May 27, 2010 under File #09-028 (Spong, 266-6714)

Staff read the recommendation of denial for the proposed geometric pattern, and the approval for the small dot pattern based on the decision made by the HPC on May 27, 2010.

Applicant Alicia Vap was present to discuss the proposal along with Wayne Schaffer, Assistant Director of Facility Maintenance for Metro Transit.

Commissioner Hutter requested clarification of the patterns shown in the photos versus what was reviewed and approved. Ms. Vap presented a sample of the small dot frit and the geometric/maze frit.

Ms. Vap presented photo examples of the maze pattern installed on other stations to demonstrate transparency. A close-up image of the "T" symbol was shown to address the issue of advertising. Mr. Schaffer noted that it is not a logo for Metro Transit, but a "regional identifier" for all public transit systems.

Mr. Schaffer presented the various glass samples and the process used to choose the maze pattern. He expressed the departments' necessity for a frit pattern that

would deter detrimental graffiti and the ability to stock one standard product to comply with the 24-hour replacement policy for broken or damaged glass. The maze pattern has been tested in various areas, and has yet to have any permanent graffiti damage. Commissioner Trimble asked if the dot pattern had been tested and Mr. Schaffer responded that it had not.

Ms. Vap reiterated the departmental desire for ease of maintenance of transit stations by stocking one standard pattern. Commissioner Trimble inquired about the approximate physical space that a separate stock of glass for the Historic Districts would inhabit. Mr. Shaffer addressed the multiple sizes that would have to be stocked. He stated that, as of now, there are six sizes for the CCLRT, twenty-four sizes for the Hiawatha transit line, and two sizes for the new shelters. Chair Laffin inquired about the logistics of tempering the glass, Mr. Schaffer responded that all glass is ordered cut and tempered. Mr. Schaffer stated that a special order for a piece of glass may take up to six weeks.

Ms. Vap stated that their focus is regional, and that the focus for the commission is only Saint Paul. She stated that the CCPO staff does not believe that the "T" symbol is advertising. Commission Trimble inquired about other notions of "identifiers", and Ms. Vap responded that their department in a public agency, not a profitable corporation.

Chair Laffin inquired whether there was a greater instance of "acid etch" on the dot pattern versus the maze pattern. Mr. Schaffer did not know, but insured Chair Laffin that the maze pattern has proven to be a deterrent.

When asked the level of transparency of each glass design Mr. Schaffer stated that the original "50/50" stripe pattern is 50%, the dot pattern is 20%, and the maze pattern in 30-40%.

There was no public testimony and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Trimble motioned to adopt recommendation. Commissioner Riehle seconded the motion. Commissioner Trout-Oertel noted that the maze frit appeared more transparent than the dot frit. She also noted that the "T" does become advertising in the pattern, and that stocking of glass is not a determining factor in the HPC decision- Commissioner Riehle agreed. Commissioner Riehle also noted that the introduction of graphics and advertisement does not comply with the HPC guidelines.

Commissioner Trout-Oertel stated that the geometry of the maze pattern is OK and that it the "T" symbol that is the issues. Commissioner Ferguson stated that the maze design in "jumpy" and that the dot pattern provides a more neutral background. Commissioner Hutter inquired about the possibility of the transparency of the maze frit could be applied to the dot pattern frit.

Commissioner Ferguson stated that the matter of advertising is not based on the fact of agency versus non-profit.

Commissioner Reihle stated that if stocking the glass is an "insurmountable problem" then the applicant should reconsider the issue at a later date.

Commissioner Ferguson noted that the commission does not wave the HPC guidelines if a window manufacturer does not stock the historic size.

The motion to adopt staff's recommendation passed 5 - 0 with one abstention (Hutter).

B. Union Depot Central Corridor Station (on Fourth Street at 214 and 209 East 4th Street), Lowertown Historic District, by Alicia Vap, Central Corridor Project Office, for consideration to revise the etched glass pattern for the LRT shelters. This project was conditionally approved by the HPC on May 27, 2010 under File #09-027 (Spong, 266-6714)

Staff read the recommendation of denial for the proposed geometric pattern, and the approval for the small dot pattern based on the decision made by the HPC on May 27, 2010.

Applicant Alicia Vap was present to discuss the proposal along with Wayne Schaffer, Assistant Director of Facility Maintenance for Metro Transit.

Commissioner Trimble inquired about the proposal for the dot pattern two years ago and what has changed since then. Mr. Schaffer responded that when the dot patter was proposed, the maze pattern had not been designed yet.

There was no public testimony and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Ferguson motioned to adopt recommendation. Commissioner Justin seconded the motion. Commissioner Trimble noted that the staff recommendation speaks to the small dot pattern and that it would be worthy to look more into the translucent frit- and not the white- to comply with the guideline. Commissioner Hutter stated that she previously abstained because this aspect was not clear.

The motion to adopt staff's recommendation passed 6-0.

VII. Old Business

- **A.** Commissioner Trimble noted that the 3M Building One is still standing, and that it would be worthy of an architectural dig.
- **B.** Staff noted that the Public Safety Building demolition was proceeding and the interior was currently being gutted.

VIII. New Business

- A. Commissioner Trimble brought to attention the court ruling regarding egress windows
- **B.** Commissioner Ferguson encouraged Staff to continue sending relevant articles to the HPC
- **C.** Commissioner Trout-Oertel brought to attention an article sent by Staff regarding solar windows/glass.

IX. Adjourn: 6:17 p.m.

Submitted by: R. Cohn